

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are currently being amended.

Claims 7 and 21 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 22-43 are withdrawn and new claims 44-46 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes, and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented. The text of all claims presently under examination is presented below in the listing of claims, and all claims are presented with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Detailed and Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): An analytical device for performing an immunoassay for the detection of a target analyte in a liquid sample comprising:
- (a) a reaction membrane which is liquid-permeable and porous and ~~has~~ having an upper and lower surface, wherein an exposed area of the ~~said~~ upper surface ~~having~~ has immobilized ~~therein~~ thereon an antibody or antigen capable of binding to the target analyte, said immobilized antibody or antigen being concentrated in a multiple spotted region of said upper surface,
 - (b) a semi-rigid liquid-impervious bottom support layer, wherein a portion of the lower surface of the ~~said~~ reaction membrane in the breadth corner ~~has~~ having no immobilized antibody or antigen, and is attached to the upper surface of the support layer by water-insoluble adhesive or tape having glue on both sides, and
 - (c) a body of absorbent material having an upper surface and lower surface, capable of absorbing liquid ~~are provided separately~~ and
 - (d) wherein vacant binding sites on the reaction membrane are blocked with an electron rich blocking protein.
2. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, ~~is alternately~~ further comprising a narrow solid strip of a liquid-impervious body placed in-between the reaction membrane and the semi-rigid support layer wherein the upper surface is attached to a portion of the lower surface of the ~~said~~ reaction membrane in the breadth corner and the lower surface is attached to bottom support layer by the water-insoluble adhesive.
3. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the size and periphery of the ~~said~~ reaction membrane is ~~much~~ smaller than the ~~said~~ bottom support layer.
4. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~said~~ the upper surface of ~~said~~ the absorbent body ~~provided separately~~ extends beyond the

periphery of ~~said~~ the reaction membrane but is smaller than the ~~said~~ bottom support layer.

5. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~said~~ the absorbent body is not fitted together with the reaction membrane using compression or adhesives during manufacture.
6. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 2, wherein, the ~~said~~ narrow solid-strip thickness is similar or higher than the absorbent body.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 2, wherein multiple strips of the reaction membrane can be attached to semi-rigid support layer to perform the immunoassay on a batch of samples.
9. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the ~~said~~ reaction membrane is selected from nitrocellulose, ~~other variety of~~ semi-permeable membrane materials, ~~including nylon, and polyvinylidene difluoride and other similar materials.~~
10. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the the ~~reaction member is circular and the~~ average diameter of the reaction membrane is in the range of about 0.22 to about 3 microns ~~and preferably 0.45 microns.~~
11. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~the loose area of~~ the reaction membrane has a loose area and immobilized thereon the antibody or antigen is immobilized thereon over the entire membrane surface as multiple dots ~~or under certain circumstances, it is desirable to immobilize across the entire membrane surface at uniform concentration.~~

12. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~it is capable of immobilizing~~ more than one specific antibody is immobilized to the membrane in the same or different areas for simultaneous detection of multiple analyte in a sample ~~with a single assay device~~.
13. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the unused binding sites on nitrocellulose are blocked with ~~suitable~~ a blocking protein ~~proteins selected from casein, BSA, gelatin and other similar materials~~.
14. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~for ultrasensitive format vacant binding sites on nitrocellulose membrane are blocked with the~~ electron rich blocking proteins ~~such as~~ are p-hydroxy-phenylpropionic acid-casein conjugate, or p-hydroxy-phenylpropionic acid-gelatin conjugate ~~and other similar materials for application of Super-CARD signal amplification~~.
15. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the bottom support layer with adequate mechanical strength is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, plastic and fiberglass.
16. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the reaction membrane is attached over the bottom support layer using a water insoluble adhesive applied in the top 4mm lower portion of the membrane.
17. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, an adhesive tape having glue on both sides may also be used to attach the membrane over the bottom support layer.
18. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the separately provided absorbent body is selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate, filter paper, bathroom tissue paper and ~~other similar~~ a suitable absorbent material ~~materials~~.

19. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the thickness of the ~~said~~ absorbent body ranges ~~is ranging~~ from about 0.1 to 8.0 mm ~~and more~~.
20. (Currently amended): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, ~~a single analytical device contains~~ further comprising more than one disposable absorbent body.
21. (Cancelled)
- 22 – 43. (Withdrawn)
44. (New): The analytical device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the diameter of the reaction membrane is about 0.45 microns.
45. (New): The analytical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction membrane has a loose area and the antibody or antigen is immobilized thereon over the entire membrane surface at a uniform concentration.
46. (New): The analytical device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the blocking protein is selected from casein, BSA, and gelatin.
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